# the Brief

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## 2017 Annual Water Quality Report

The 2017 City of Santa Barbara
Water Quality Report is now available.
Visit **SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Water**to view the report to learn more
about the sources and quality
of your drinking water.

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City of Santa Barbara P.O. Box 1990 Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

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## TUNE IN TO GARDEN WISE TV TO HELP YOUR GARDEN GROW



Learn how to effectively water your trees in the latest episode of Garden Wise TV.

Are you looking for gardening ideas, ways to save water outdoors, or to completely redo your landscape? Then Garden Wise TV is the place to go for information and entertainment! Garden Wise is a television program about designing and maintaining sustainable landscapes and is created by the Network of Santa Barbara County Water Providers and City TV. Join our host and local experts to learn all about landscape design, finding the perfect plant, graywater and rainwater, and programs to help you save water.

The latest episode, titled "Take your Landscape to the Next Level with Trees" focuses on sustainable landscapes and providing trees with proper care. We start by visiting the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden for inspiration in their newly renovated Water Wise Home Demonstration Garden. Then, Cathie Paré, with the City of Santa Barbara, shows us how to effectively water trees using a variety of methods. Next, Oscar Carmona of the Green Gardener Program shows us how to properly prune trees for plant health. Then, Billy Goodnick, local landscape architect, helps clients update their landscape into the space of their dreams while also cutting their water usage. In our final segment, "What Tree Is That?" Randy Baldwin, President of San Marcos Growers, introduces us to Dragon Trees which are drought tolerant, low maintenance, and fit well with succulents, making them a great option for Santa Barbara landscapes.

To watch the latest episode or to watch past episodes, visit us online at *WaterWiseSB.org/GardenWise*.

### Upcoming Water Wise Classes!





Graywater 101
Wednesday

Site Assessment 101
Tuesday

Rain Harvesting 101
Thursday
Describer 7th

All classes are scheduled from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Mackenzie Park Adult Building located at 3111 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

\$10 suggested donation to Sweetwater Collaborative.

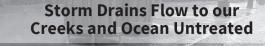
Classes are provided by Sweetwater Collaborative and sponsored in part by the City of Santa Barbara.

For more information visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Graywater













### CITY ACTIONS ADDRESSING DOWNTOWN CONCERNS

With the rise of online retailing and more vacant spaces along State Street, the City and community partners are taking steps to enhance the vibrancy of the downtown corridor. There are many project efforts that have been launched to address concerns and keep the area clean and safe.

#### Permit Process Streamlined on State Street

The City's new ACCELERATE Program was launched in August to make it easier and faster to occupy commercial space on State Street between Cabrillo Boulevard and Sola Street. All proposed tenant improvements in this area will receive priority for building plan review and design review.

#### New Ambassadors Add Regular Public Safety Presence

Uniformed ambassadors are now on patrol on State Street every day from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Ambassadors engage with businesses and visitors to address issues related to nuisance behavior, maintenance, and aesthetics. Look for the Ambassadors in red shirts. They join Volunteers in Policing and Community Liaisons, enhancing law enforcement's presence downtown.

#### **Wayfinding Signage**

Wayfinding signs have been installed to help visitors find parking lots and points of interest.

#### **Vacant Macy's Building**

The announcement of Macy's closing their downtown store along with 100 other stores across the country falls in line with a nationwide trend of large chain stores closing their doors. Dating back to 1990, the City has a 75-year lease with Macy's and the lease can be reassigned to another retailer or retail mixed use project. While the City does not control assignment of the remaining 48 years of the lease, the City is encouraging a high quality retailer or a mixed use tenant for the vacant space.

#### **Smoke-Free Outdoor Public Areas**

Council adopted a new law designating outdoor public areas as smokefree to reduce cigarette butt litter and limit exposure to secondhand smoke. Smoking is prohibited on sidewalks and paseos, outdoor dining patios before 10:00 p.m., City parking lots and structures, parks, beaches, and other outdoor areas.

#### **Alcohol Policy Under Development**

Since easy access to alcohol contributes to public intoxication and inappropriate behavior on our streets, the City is drafting a policy that restricts off-premise alcohol sales in gas stations and convenience stores where an individual can buy single-serve bottles. The draft policy will be reviewed by the City Council.

#### **Short-Term Loading and Pick-Up Areas**

To adapt to changing retail behavior, transportation staff is reviewing loading zones and short-term pick-up areas of people and products. When the assessment is complete, the curbs will be repainted.

#### **Downtown Street Lane Closures for Electrical Upgrades**

To improve electrical reliability downtown, Southern California Edison is upgrading electrical infrastructure in a multi-phase effort to be completed in 2021. The first stage of electrical improvements are underway with lane closures at various intersections on Chapala Street between Ortega Street and Anapamu Street.

#### Reimagining the 101 State St. Underpass

The City is undertaking a project to redesign the underpass as an inviting destination area with active street and art elements, lighting, and reconfigured lanes for vehicles and bikes. These enhancements will improve the connection between the waterfront and downtown areas and draw pedestrians up State Street. The community is invited to an Opening Event on November 15 at 5 p.m. at the Community Arts Workshop on 631 Garden Street. Wine and refreshments will be served. Community artists, design professionals, downtown business owners, and residents are encouraged to attend. Bring your ideas to activate the underpass area.

Visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Downtown to learn more.

